

T. Woods, Paul Woods' 6'4" stature is dwarfed only by his impact on his family, community, and country.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 28, 2023, AS "RARE DISEASE DAY"

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2023*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce this resolution with my colleague, Rep. RICHARD HUDSON of North Carolina. Our resolution supports the designation of Rare Disease Day on the last day of February. I am pleased that this resolution has been endorsed by the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) and am thankful for their leadership on these critical issues over many years.

Nearly one in ten Americans live with one or more of the roughly 7,000 known rare diseases. More than half of those struggling with rare diseases—defined as affecting less than 200,000 people—are children. Sadly, many rare diseases and conditions are serious, life-threatening, and lack effective treatments. These are not just statistics: I am sure most of us know at least one family member or friend who has been affected by or struggled with the unique challenges of rare diseases.

Moreover, as we observe Black History Month, it's important to know that African Americans and other minorities are especially vulnerable to rare diseases, including Sickle Cell Anemia and Sarcoidosis. These diseases and conditions—including Thalassemia and Hereditary ATTR (hATTR) amyloidosis—disproportionately affect African Americans. Despite these unique obstacles, African Americans have an inspiring tradition of both combatting rare diseases and improving medical science.

One great example is Dr. Charles Drew, an African American scientist who helped found the modern "blood bank," which helped dramatically expand blood transfusions. A faculty member at Howard University, Dr. Drew's pioneering work in blood transfusions took place against the backdrop of segregation and discrimination. During his time overseeing the Red Cross's blood plasma donation program, Dr. Drew was prohibited from donating his own blood because of the color of his skin. Despite these obstacles, Dr. Drew's work improved the practice of blood transfusions, which is now a lifeline for many individuals struggling today with rare diseases. The examples of Dr. Drew and countless other researchers, physicians, nurses, activists, and patients underscore the importance of bringing additional awareness to rare diseases.

Despite the many challenges, some progress has been made. More work needs to be done to bring attention to the needs of those who struggle with rare diseases, and to celebrate their courage. That's why Rep. HUDSON and I are reintroducing this important resolution. Each year, many individuals with rare diseases and their loved ones celebrate Rare Disease Day to share their stories and educate communities of researchers, health pro-

fessionals, governments, and community organizations about how rare diseases affect them.

More than 100 countries observe Rare Disease Day. Our resolution expresses support for the designation of the last day of this month as Rare Disease Day. Congress should recognize this work and improve our efforts to address the challenges facing the rare disease patient community.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting Rare Disease Day's designation on the last day of February to better champion people with rare diseases. I urge the House to support this resolution.

RECOGNIZING MAJ. GEN. THOMAS F. GRABOWSKI

**HON. AUSTIN SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2023*

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Grabowski, who is retiring after 38 years of honorable service to the State of Georgia and our Nation.

Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Grabowski retires as the Assistant Adjutant General—Air, Georgia National Guard, and Commander of the Georgia Air National Guard. In his duties and responsibilities, he led the Georgia State Air Guard headquarters team while overseeing a command of more than 2,900 Georgia Air National Guard members serving in two flying wings, seven geographically separated units, and an Air Dominance Center.

General Grabowski joined the Georgia Air National Guard in 1985 as an enlisted Telecommunications Specialist and quickly ascended through the ranks, becoming a commissioned officer in 1994. Over his career, he has commanded at the flight, squadron, and wing levels and closes out his distinguished career as the commanding general of all guard Airmen in the state.

General Grabowski's aviation career includes more than 2,700 flying hours: including more than 1,700 combat hours in the E-8C JSTARS supporting Operations IRAQ1 and ENDURING FREEDOM.

General Grabowski has spent the last 38 years embodying the Air Force's core values and the ideals of our Nation: Service before self, integrity first, and excellence in all we do. Although, his accomplishments have never overshadowed his humility. To this day, he wears hidden in his flight cap the insignia of the first rank he held in the military as a constant reminder of where he started.

Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Grabowski is an exemplary leader, and I commend him for his service to the country and his commitment to the Georgia Air National Guard.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2023*

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed Roll Call vote 65 on January 27, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

I regrettably also missed Roll Call vote 120 on February 27, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

I regrettably also missed Roll Call vote 121 on February 27, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

FEBRUARY CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

**HON. MIKE LEVIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2023*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Dr. Wendy Stewart as my February Constituent of the Month.

Dr. Stewart serves as the inaugural interim Chief Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Officer at MiraCosta College where she has worked for more than a decade including her previous role at the college as Dean of Counseling and Student Development. She has spent over 25 years in education, helping to better the lives of students throughout the San Diego region.

Throughout her career, Dr. Stewart has been a fierce student advocate who has helped students access higher education and achieve their goals. Dr. Stewart is a shining example of what an educator should be—kind, dedicated, and passionate—and our region is better for it.

As we conclude Black History Month, I am especially proud to honor Dr. Stewart, an esteemed educator who uses her decades of experience and knowledge to contribute to our unique and beautiful district. Her story, passion to improve the lives of others, and academic achievements are honorable and that is why I am proud to honor Dr. Stewart as my February Constituent of the Month.

RECOGNIZING MARCUS BYRD FOR HIS SUCCESS IN PROFESSIONAL GOLF

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the closing days of Black History Month to recognize a professional golfer from the District of Columbia.

Marcus Byrd picked up his clubs at the First Tee of Greater Washington, D.C. at the historic Langston Golf Course in Northeast, honing his skills there and at a number of golf courses in nearby Prince George's County. He finished in 2nd place at the Maryland State High School Golf Championship in his freshman year. Shortly after, his family moved to Atlanta, Georgia. In 2013, he won the Georgia State Junior Championship and colleges began to take notice. Mr. Byrd earned a college golf scholarship to Middle Tennessee State University and quickly became one of the best players on the team. After a standout college career, Mr. Byrd turned professional in 2020. He is currently competing on the Advocaes Professional Golf Association Tour (APGA), which is aimed at increasing diversity in the sport. Mr. Byrd has two wins and five